

4-15-1935

Boom Days in Hancock County or A History of Mining in the Towns of Hancock and Sullivan, Maine

Henry B. Gallison

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/spc_books

Recommended Citation

Gallison, Henry B., "Boom Days in Hancock County or A History of Mining in the Towns of Hancock and Sullivan, Maine" (1935). *Special Collection Books*. 1.
http://digitalmaine.com/spc_books/1

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collection Books by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword

Bibliography

General History

1. As told by newspapers and magazines
2. Get-**BOOM DAYS IN HANCOCK COUNTY**
3. Why deposits were not worked before 1878
4. The place of mining in the economic structure of the State

A History of Mining in the Towns of Hancock and Sullivan, Maine

Specific History of Sullivan-Hancock District

1. The Sullivan lode
2. The first discovery of silver
3. Mines in the district and their history

Future of the Mines

Appendix I

1. Assays of ores from Sullivan-Hancock District

Appendix II

1. Minerals mined in Sullivan-Hancock District

Appendix III

1. Production of gold, silver, and copper in Maine 1877-1934

By

Appendix IV

1. Advertisements Henry B. Gallison
The Hancock Miner
Maine and Southern: 1878-1880
U. of M. '35

Appendix V

Order of the Maine State Board of Education
Maine State Board of Education
June 20, 1935

Appendix VI

As partial fulfillment of the requirements of
Ed 52 - History of Education in Maine.

Foreword

I must confess that in choosing this subject I did not expect to find so much material as I have succeeded in doing. I am not and sorry; I am glad. I knew from hearsay and from the older folk of the region that there had been a great deal of excitement over mining at one time, but I did not even know when the boom had taken place when I started my research.

I had never heard of any report being published on the subject, and as a matter of fact, no comprehensive report has ever been written. Scattered reports on different phases of the work are here brought together for what I take to be the first time. All material used is source material, and I am only sorry that time will not allow me to go further than I have. The Library at Harvard College and the Library at Bowdoin both contain reports which I should have like to read and incorporate into this report; and the Ellsworth American, a newspaper that was published weekly in Hancock County during those hectic days as well as at the present time, must have contained some truly classic stories about the boom.

This narrative, then, must remain unembellished by the personal incidents which would so liven it, and be only a statement of facts. Some day I hope to be able to write the whole story--the story of the whole county, including the mines of Bluehill, Brooksville, Castine, Deer Isle, Gouldsboro, Catherine Hill, Cherryfield, and Franklin, as well as those of Hancock and Sullivan. That truly would be worth while.

I wish here to thank Mr. Ibbotson, Librarian at the University of Maine, for kindly allowing me to browse over some of the old newspapers stored deep in the basement; Thad Smith of Mount Desert Ferry for his story that first interested me in this subject; my father,

William Gallison, for his stories and information; my grandmother, Mary B. Ball, for the loan of a much needed volume; to Fletcher and Charles F. Johnson, "First Report on the Geology of the State of Howard Martin of East Sullivan, for personal experiences; and Edwin Doyle for some old mining stock certificates. To Miss Ava Harriett Chadbourne of the Department of Education of the University of Maine I owe my special thanks, for if I had not taken her course in the History of Education in Maine, I probably never should have undertaken this pleasant task.

Henry B. Gallison
Henry B. Gallison

Orono, Maine
April 15, 1935

"State of Maine, 1878"

"State of Maine" 1879-80

"Maine" 1879-80

"State of Maine, 1881"

John W. Cook,

"Maine" 1881-82

William B. Cook,

"Maine" 1882-83

"Maine" 1883-84

"Maine" 1884-85

Charles F. Johnson, "Maine" 1885-86

Edwin Doyle, "Maine" 1886-87

"Maine" 1887-88

- Charles T. Jackson, "First Report on the Geology of the State of
Maine, 1837"
"Second Report on the Geology of the State of
Maine, 1838"
"Third Annual Report on the Geology of the
State of Maine, 1839"
Ezekiel Holmes and C. H. Hitchcock, "Preliminary Report on the
Natural History and Geology of the State of
Maine, 1861"
C. H. Hitchcock, "Second Annual Report on the Natural History
and Geology of the State of Maine, 1862"
The Bangor Daily Whig & Courier on June 4, 1879, carried the
following article: "Laws of Maine, 1878"
F. L. Bartlett, "Mines of Maine" 1879-80
"Bangor Daily Whig & Courier" 1879-80
"Laws of Maine, 1881"
John C. Smock, "Mineral Resources of the U.S. for 1882", U.S.G.S.
William S. Bagley and F. B. King, "Catalogue of the Maine
Geological Collection, 1890"
"Public Documents of Maine, 1904"
"Mineral Resources of the U.S. for 1908" Part I
George Otis Smith, "U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432, 1910."
Hattie Ball Martin and Alfred B. Crabtree,
"Hancock 1828-1928"
The following is an accurate list of the discoveries which have
been made, and the work which is being done, and the bright prospects
of the future which exist in Eastern Maine.

Foreword

I must confess that **TABLE OF CONTENTS** subject I did not expect to find so much material as I have succeeded in doing. I am not

Foreword

sorry; I am glad. I knew from hearsay and from the older folk of

Bibliography

the region that there had been a great deal of excitement over mining

General History

at one time. **1. As told by newspapers and magazines** had taken place

when I started. **2. Get-rich-quick schemes**

3. Why deposits were not worked before 1878

4. The place of mining in the economic structure

I had never seen any report being published on the subject,

and no **Specific History of Sullivan-Hancock District** ever been written.

1. The Sullivan lode

2. The first discovery of silver work are here brought

3. Mines in the district and their history together for what I take to be the first time. All material used is

Future of the Mines

source material, and I am only sorry that time will not allow me to

Appendix I

1. Assays of ores from Sullivan-Hancock District

Appendix II **1. Minerals mined in Sullivan-Hancock District**

Appendix III **1. Production of Gold, Silver, and Copper in Maine 1880-1882**

Appendix III

1. Production of Gold, Silver, and Copper in Maine 1880-1882

Appendix IV **1. Advertisements appearing in the Bangor Daily**

Whig and Courier, 1879-1880

Appendix V

1. Maine Mining Stocks listed at 28 Congress St.

Boston, Mass. Jan. 20, 1885.

Appendix VI

1. Gold bar exhibited

including the mine of Bluehill, Brooksville, and Franklin, as well as those of Hancock and Sullivan. This truly would be worth while.

I wish here to thank Mr. Johnson, Librarian at the University of Maine for kindly allowing me to browse over some of the old books in the library; and Mr. Smith of Bangor for his help in this subject; my father

The editor of the General History York, having visited personally the mines of Sullivan, and in alluding to the great terms; copper mine being developed in the State of Maine. By 1879 there were not less than fifty in operation. I have personally visited Sullivan and feel assured that the excitement that must have prevailed in the sleepy towns along the coast as the news went out that gold, silver, and copper were to be found right under the feet of a favored few.

The Bangor Daily Whig & Courier on June 4, 1879, carried the following article. "The Lewiston Journal says that the mining excitement in Hancock County seems to be on the increase. Parties from Boston and New York are investing to some extent and speak hopefully of the mining prospect.

"Jay Gould is one of the prominent men who has recently visited the Sullivan area."¹

¹Quoted from Bangor Daily Whig & Courier, June 4, 1879

Papers from all parts of the country, but more especially New England and New York, carried news of the great boom in Hancock County.

The Boston Herald in an article on the Maine mines said: "It is safe to say that not one in fifty of the readers of the Herald has anything like an accurate idea of the discoveries which have been made, and the work which is being done, and the bright prospects of the future which exist in Eastern Maine."²

²Bartlett's "Mines of Maine". The answer is, Because

Other papers carrying favorable news at this time were The ...

The editor of the Mining Record, New York, having visited personally the mines of Sullivan, speaks of them in the highest terms; and in alluding to the articles which had appeared in the Boston Herald from time to time, said: "So have personally visited Sullivan and feel assured that the correspondent of the Boston Herald does not overrate the value of these extraordinary eastern silver mines."¹

¹ Bartlett, Mines of Maine

The Economist, a mining journal published in Boston contained many articles on the "Maine mines" and made the statement that "If the State of Maine were in the far west or in some remote region inaccessible to railroads, there would be far less scepticism regarding the value of its mineral wealth than now prevails. But it has been settled so many years, it is so accessible, that to assert that it possesses gold, silver, and copper mines, which promise in the not very remote future to prove sources of wealth greater than all its other combined industries, is to invite disbelief and ridicule, not only from strangers, but from the inhabitants of the State itself; and yet we believe such to be the fact."¹

The New York Tribune expressed exactly the same idea where it said: "If mining veins like these had been discovered in some new district in Colorado, in six months' time a settlement of some five or ten thousand people would have sprung up, full of speculators and miners." It concluded by asking, "why, then, is there not more excitement over such undeniably rich mines? The answer is, Because they are in Maine and not in the far West."

Other papers carrying favorable news at this time were The Wall Street News, The Boston Advertiser, The Boston Journal, The Chicago

Mining Journal, The Portland Transcript, etc. acted by reports from The Press of Maine as a general rule, up to 1880 at least, was more conservative in speaking of this new industry than out of state papers. They, however, fairly represented the sentiment of the people and are not really entitled to any blame for their standing. An exception was The Ellsworth American which was right in Hancock County and could not help but be imbued with the mining spirit. Later, when a far-sighted editor of one of the leading newspapers of the State made the statement that he did not believe the mines of Maine would ever amount to anything, an over-enthusiastic state assayer, F. L. Bartlett, declared that the editor was just "placing his inexperience and ignorance of mining matters plainly before the public."¹

¹ Bartlett, Mines of Maine

Everyone now wanted to believe that there really was something worth while and permanent in the mines. To quote the Ellsworth American of 1878, "We think that all must now agree that the mining business in this district is but in its infancy and bids fair to live to a good old age. Only a year ago, we had but one mine that was taking out anything that could be called ore. Now between Ellsworth and Cherryfield, we have at least fifteen mines in active operation, nearly all of which are taking out a good deal of ore, running from twenty to two-hundred dollars per ton in silver and gold, and in some instances, copper and lead enough in addition to pay the cost of mining and smelting. A year ago, we had very little doing except by home talent, everything that was done being for the purpose of testing whether we had valuable minerals or not. Now that's all changed. Mining is done as a business. California, Nevada, and

8.
The following story shows another way men look to get rich. Colorado miners of experience and money, attracted by reports from quick if all went well. "A little game attempted by a fellow in a here and by samples of our ores shown in the different cities, have loan near all worth the other day who 'bought' a piece of ground come and examined, and being satisfied, have bought or leased property and gone to work systematically, expending their money in a the place with the view of 'selling' land and buyers at the same time, way and to an extent that our people are strangers to, showing their was not very successful. Better try that on someone who is not so entire confidence in the continuance and success of their new industry. With all this before us and the new finds of rich mineral which are almost of daily occurrence, we see no sufficient reason for further doubt and can confidently look forward to the new year as being one of extraordinary development and prosperity."

The great interest that was shown may be seen by the advertisements of mining equipment, assay offices, etc., which appeared in the Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, a one-sheet, four page newspaper of the day, and forerunner to the present Bangor Daily News. These advertisements are listed on pages 33, 34 and 35.

That all did not try to get rich by the sweat of their brows may well be imagined. Many purchased stock which they expected to become valuable in the future. I have in my possession at this time four mining stock certificates totalling 300 shares of the West Bay Silver Mining Company of Gouldsboro, Maine, G. R. Campbell, President; and one certificate for 50 shares issued by the Hall Mining Company of Bluehill, C. G. Hall, President. There must be hundreds of these old certificates in attics and other out-of-the-way corners of houses in Maine and other states. Many certificates have, of course, been lost or destroyed. Mr. Edwin Doyle of East Sullivan, Maine, who loaned me the four certificates I now have, said that he had been tempted more than once to destroy them since they were valueless.

The following story shows another way men took to get rich quick if all went well. "A little game attempted by a fellow in a town near Ellsworth the other day who "salted" a piece of ground with good quartz and then got two Ellsworth gentlemen out to examine the place with the view of "selling" land and buyers at the same time, was not very successful. Better try that on someone who is not so well posted next time, young man." ¹

¹ Ellsworth American, May 1879. A large capital into the state,

will serve to render the community generally. A question that may well be asked is, "Why were these mineral deposits in Maine not discovered before?" This question, according to F. L. Bartlett in his Mines of Maine may be easily answered, but I am not so sure.

On the 21st of March, 1836, the legislature of Maine "Resolved that the Governor, with the advice of the Council, is hereby authorized to employ some suitable person or persons to make a Geological Survey of any lands in Maine, where such survey, together with the various observations which the surveyors will have the opportunity to make, will probably lead to a more accurate knowledge of the worth of the Public Domain."²

² Catalogue of the Maine Geological Collection.

On March 28 it was further "Resolved that the person who shall be employed to make the Geological Survey shall be required to select three complete suits of specimens of all rock and minerals of Maine, and deposit one of them in the Public Buildings as the property of the State and also one in each college in the state."²

Dr. Charles T. Jackson of Boston was selected to do the work which took three years. His last report is a sort of summary and contains this information relative to mining;

"The value of individual property, the aggregate of which forms the sum of the state wealth, has been greatly increased; new resources have been discovered, and the extent and value of those but little known have been ascertained and reported. Mines and minerals, which when wrought will bring a large capital into the State, will serve to relieve the community generally. ****

"It will hereafter be a matter of astonishment that Maine ever had to import her iron ****" ¹

¹ Jackson's Reports on the Geology of the State of Maine.

F. L. Bartlett, mentioned above, states that "The Legislature passed an act authorizing the Governor and Council to employ competent persons to survey the State, but cautiously decreed that no mention should be made of any discovery or discoveries of the precious metals, thinking that such reports would be disastrous to the newly-fledged farming interests."²

² F. L. Bartlett, Mines of Maine.

I am unable to find any authentic source for the above statement by Mr. Bartlett regarding the secrecy which should surround the discovery of precious metals.

Bartlett goes on to say, "It is a fact that he (Jackson) did discover many mineral veins of great promise, and stated privately to men now living (1879) that he did find such veins, and predicted that at some future time Maine would take a prominent place as a producer of precious metals."

I think we must bear in mind that Mr. Jackson in three years tried to undertake a survey that would require twenty if properly completed, and that in his very superficial survey he would not have been able to discover all the mineral deposits. In fact, I cannot find in his reports where he ever even visited Gouldsboro, Sullivan or Hancock where the larger part of the silver mines were later developed. There certainly are no specimens from these towns on the catalogue list.¹

V. 607

¹ Bayley & King, Catalogue of the Maine Geological Collection, 1890

Be this as it may, immediately following Jackson's Survey came the discovery of gold in California which resulted in attracting away all those who were at all interested in mining.

"Jackson's specimens that had been collected were neglected, labels lost, etc., till on March 16, 1861, it was "Resolved that the Governor with the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture is hereby authorized to contract with some suitable person or persons to conduct a scientific survey of the State, said survey to embrace its geology, agriculture, natural history, and physical geography ***."

"On May 23, 1861, Messrs. E. Holmes of Winthrop and C. H. Hitchcock of Amherst, Geologist, were appointed to undertake a complete survey. Enough information was gleaned to enable a geologist to form a tolerably correct general idea of the geological structure of the State ***."

Here, however, lack of money and the intervention of the Civil War distracted attention from the State's mineral resources. Holmes and Hitchcock in their preliminary report stated, "The metals that may be obtained in Maine are iron, lead, zinc, copper, tin, manganese,

arsenic and gold.¹ Another fact that should be remembered is that up to this time no satisfactory method of extracting metals from low grade ores had been perfected.

I Preliminary Report on the Natural History and Geology of the State of Maine. 1861.

I have not been able to discover definitely just when or where mining became prominent. The first mine was opened in the Sullivan district in 1878, and I find in the Laws of Maine for 1878 "An act to encourage the development of the mining interests of the state" which indicates that someone at this time was thinking of the future possibility of the development of mines and was anxious to help along an infant industry that might have a bright future before it. The act follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in Legislature assembled as follows:

"Section I. That all mines of gold, silver or of the baser metals, which are now, or may be opened and in the process of development, shall be exempt from taxation for a term of ten years from the time of such opening.

"Section II. This act shall not affect the taxation of the land or the surface improvements of the same, at the same rate of valuation as similar lands and buildings in the vicinity." 2

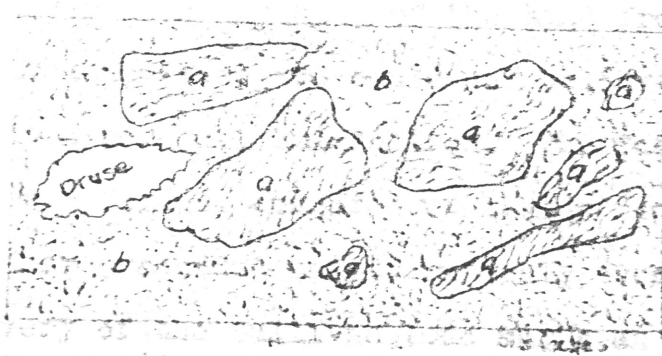
² Laws of Maine. 1878

This act, of course, eliminated the possibility of the selectmen and assessors of the various towns from placing excessive valuations on mining property thus destroying the geese that were to lay the gold, silver, and copper eggs.

Mr. F. L. Bartlett, the State Assayer, was very enthusiastic over the outlook for the mining of precious metals; he, according to his own statements at least, having been the one to advocate their exploitation. He says, "That mining will be a benefit to the State cannot be denied by any candid, fair-minded man. The capital for working our mines comes mostly from abroad (i.e. from outside the State). It is disbursed chiefly among our workmen, and no industry is so productive of energy and is so enterprising and stirring.*****1

¹ F. L. Bartlett, Mines of Maine

He further urged that farming be not neglected, that people not look upon mining as a purely speculative business, that the State encourage mining men to come in and develop mining properties, and that mining laws be revised. He brought forth the fact that lumbering and shipbuilding were on the decline and that mining might well be the new industry to take their place.



Ore from Sullivan Mine
(a) fragments of schist; (b) vein quartz

History of the Sullivan-Hancock District

With the foregoing as a sort of general outline of conditions leading up to 1880, I feel that we may now turn to the Sullivan district and give it our attention. I quote again from F. L. Bartlett whom we must remember is prone to exaggerate somewhat.

"Along the shore of Sullivan river, and running nearly parallel to it, is located the famous Sullivan lode. This is unquestionably one of the most remarkable silver bearing veins that has ever been discovered. The course of the vein is north-west to south-east. The strike being the same as the country rock, it dips toward the granite, and probably will come in contact with it inside of a depth of one thousand feet.

"This vein was discovered by Mr. Messer, in May, 1877. It crops out along the shore of the river, showing eight or ten inches of quartz, containing silver-sulphuret, galena, and iron pyrites. Mr. Francis Worcester caused a shaft to be sunk some eight or ten feet,

and strange to say, he encountered specimens of native silver in the form of threads and flakes. Specimens of these were forwarded to me. Having never seen anything of the kind from the State before I was exceedingly astonished and could not believe it until I visited the mine and made a personal examination. The following spring, 1878, a company was formed, composed of Boston men, who commenced work at once; and it has proceeded uninterruptedly ever since.

"The discovery of the Sullivan lode marks an era in the history of mining in Maine and deserves special mention. The Sullivan Company, although laughed at by many and encouraged by none, except two or three experts who examined the property, have, with commendable energy, enterprise and perseverance, pushed their work forward until

they have actually proved, despite all opposition, that the lode or vein is one of exceeding great richness. The success attending the working of this mine has unquestionably been the cause of starting all other mines in this and adjoining districts. On the Sullivan vein proper are located the Waukeag, Sullivan, Pine Tree and Milton Mining Companies. Farther up the river, on the Hancock side, on the same range, are located the Robert Emmett and Hancock Silver Mining Companies. These mines, although probably not located on any part of the Sullivan vein, are within the Sullivan belt. The Robert Emmett and Hancock mines both produce ores which carry considerable gold and some copper, while that of the Sullivan vein contains but little of either.

"Coming back to the Sullivan side, we have the Ashley, Millbrook, and Tugwassa, located below and a little to the eastward of the Sullivan veins. The Ashley and Millbrook are both located on what is claimed to be a broken or dislocated portion of the Sullivan vein, which, if the claim is not true, must have some close relation to it since the ore taken from the Millbrook at the depth of ninety feet, is of the same character as that of the Sullivan vein proper. There has been considerable disturbance of some portions of the Sullivan lode by the intrusion of trap dykes and porphyry, which may have caused a deflection or splitting-up of the vein. The country rock in which the Sullivan vein is found is a slaty quartzite, somewhat talcose, in some places calcareous, and sometimes porphyritic. At the Milton mine, the rock somewhat resembles the Comstock lode, porphyry being distinctly calciferous.¹

¹ F. L. Bartlett, Mines of Maine.

More information concerning this famous lode will be given under the description of mines to be found on it.

whether the Milton Mining and Milling Company was reorganized
Description of the Mines of the Sullivan-Hancock District
and incorporated as the Milton Mining Company with a new personnel.

Sullivan District

or whether the Milton Mining Company was a totally separate company
1. Ashley Silver Mining Company
Incorporated July, 1879.
Capital \$400,000. Shares \$10 each
President - J. R. Grose, Boston, Mass.
Secretary - W. Horne, Sullivan, Maine
One shaft and full steam machinery.

This mine was located in ledge on the Ashley property
about one mile down the river from the present bridge be-
tween Sullivan and Hancock on Route 1. It was only a few
yards from the road on the left hand side.

Horace "Hod" Ashley, still living, worked in this
and other mines, but I have not been able to see him or
get a statement from him. His contribution should be
valuable.

2. Milton Mining and Milling Company
Incorporated June, 1879
Capital \$500,000 Shares \$5. each
President - J. D. Prescott, Boston, Mass.
Secretary - W. O. Arnold, Bangor, Maine
Superintendent - John Shoenbar, Sullivan, Me.
Two shafts. Full steam machinery, smelt-
ing and reducing works.

I find in the Laws of Maine for 1881 the following:

"An Act to Incorporate the Milton Mining Company.
George F. Ropes, Horace T. Starr, George West, George Farring-
ton and associates. Authorized to carry on the business of min-
ing, quarrying, milling, and smelting minerals and ores in Sullivan,
County of Hancock, State of Maine Capital stock \$1,000,000."

Laws of Maine, 1881.

It seems that up to 1881 capital stock had been limited to
\$500,000, each share to be unassessable. Evidently after this time
the limit was raised to \$1,000,000.

Whether the Hilton Mining and Milling Company was reorganized and incorporated as the Hilton Mining Company with a new personnel, or whether the Hilton Mining Company was a totally separate company wanting a name similar to that of an establish and successful company, I do not know at this time. Further research will be necessary to uncover the facts here.

The Hilton Mining and Milling Company was located about 100 yards to the right of the Sullivan end of the present Hancock-Sullivan Bridge near the house now occupied by Andrew Hanf. Its two shafts were fairly near the water.

C. W. Kempton reports that one of the Hilton shafts was sunk to a depth of 260 feet and that the lode was not encountered in a 400 foot crosscut to the southwest.¹

¹ U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

To quote from Emons concerning the Hilton mine: "To judge from the ore on the dump the deposit is a clean-cut vein filling a fissure in the schist and is not regionally metamorphosed. The gangue is quartz, barite, talc, and gypsum; the sulphides, which are not abundant in the gangue, include zinc blende, galena, pyrite, chalcopyrite, arsenopyrite, and a gray sulphide which is probably brittle silver. Threads of native silver are said to have been found ten feet below the surface. Magnetite, specularite, and pyrrhotite are absent. The quartz is usually massive, but is also found as acicular crystals pointing to the center of a druse.

"Brecciated fragments of the schistose country rock are included in the ore and the rounded edges of these show that they were partially dissolved by the ore-depositing solutions. These relations are shown in the figure above. The schist is not strongly leached near the lode, but chlorite and sericite have developed through metasomatic processes.

"The banded ore is not schistose like the pyritic copper ores in the Ellsworth schist and is clearly of a later age. It was probably formed at the time of the intrusion of the granite."¹

¹ Emmons - U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

Millbrook Silver Mining Company

Not incorporated

Proprietor - F. Worcester

Steam machinery - one shaft

This shaft was driven beside the brook which runs into Taunton River just above the salt water falls. It is now across the brook from the foot of Linwood Gray's lawn and about fifty feet from Route 1.

Pine Tree Silver Mining Company

Not incorporated

Owners:

G. L. Gibson, Boston

P. L. Johnson, Boston

E. A. Page, Boston

Superintendent: E. G. Johnson, Sullivan, Me.
Steam machinery: one shaft.

This was located on the Sullivan lode proper but just where, I do not know.

Emmons, U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

The Sullivan lode outcropped here below high tide. A shaft
 Sullivan Silver Mining Company
 Incorporated April, 1878

Capital \$500,000 Shares \$10 each
 President: George B. Brown, Boston, Mass.
 Secretary: W. O. Arnold, Bangor, Maine
 Supt.: B. F. Tilden, Sullivan, Maine

Year 1877. Gives the following description of the Sullivan mine:

Length of vein on property: 726 feet. Full and complete
 steam machinery. Two shafts. Twenty stamp mill.

This mine was located just up the river from the Wilton mine
 and just on the left hand side of the highway bridge between Sullivan
 and Hancock.

The mine was the first worked in Sullivan as told before, being
 discovered in 1877 and first worked in 1878. The Lewiston Journal
 on June 4, 1879 says, "The work of excavating and sinking shafts is
 being pushed forward with vigor. The shaft at the Sullivan Mining
 Company has reached a depth of 120 feet and the ore increases in
 richness." A newspaper report of July 19, 1879 reports, "The shaft
 of the Sullivan mine is now down about 150 feet and the vein is
 about 9 feet wide."¹ Assays of samples taken from this mine at
 10, 12, 16, 20, 30, 50, and 75 feet are given in the Table of Assays
 on page 30. Bartlett says that by the last of 1879 the shaft was
 down 190 feet, following the dip of the ore vein, in which the ore
 vein could be seen gradually widening from 10 inches at the top to
 9 feet wide at the bottom of the shaft.² William Emmons reports
 that the shaft finally reached a depth of 290 feet.³

¹ Bangor Daily Whig and Courier.

² Bartlett, Mines of Maine.

³ Emmons, U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

The Sullivan lode outcropped here below high tide. A coffer dam was built to hold back the water and the shaft was sunk on the shore just north of the Sullivan shaft, as far as the lode is concerned.

It was worked till 1864 when they shut down. It is said that C. W. Kempton, who was employed as a mining engineer at Sullivan in 1877, gives the following description of the Sullivan mine:

"Proceeding with the shaft, at about 30 feet depth, the vein composed with quartz with more or less slate highly impregnated with sulphides, was found to be four feet wide. *** The ore is essentially silver, sulphides and native in quartz and slaty gangues, with slight amounts of iron, zinc, etc., as sulphides and also galena. Of the silver minerals, stromeyerite is most plentiful, stephanit next, argentite (silver glance) common, native silver in flakes very plentiful, threads frequent, lumps occasional.

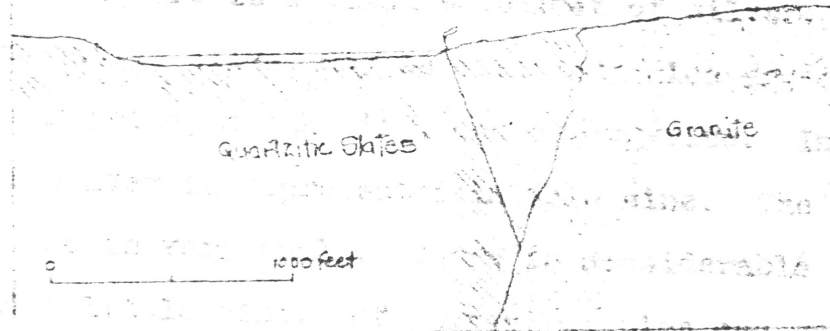
"Ruby silver is exceedingly rare; antimonial silver has been found. The occasional yellow copper sulphide met with has a peculiar luster and runs very rich in silver.

"As stated above, the course of the vein is from northwest to southeast, with the strike of the slate parallel to the line of contact of the granite. The vein is in the slate dipping at an angle of 70° from the horizon, northeasterly, toward the granite, which it probably reaches in less than a thousand feet. The slate also dips toward the granite at this place about 37° from the horizontal, although at some other places not more than 12°.

"At the contact of the slate and granite, the latter often penetrates the bedding of the slate, in known instances nearly 200 feet. The granite is much cut up by dikes of black trap, which also runs into the slate, faulting the vein in several places."¹

¹ Emmons quoting from Kempton - U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

The above description also fits the Waukeag mine, which was just north of the Sullivan shafts, as far as the lode is concerned. Both were worked till 1884 when they shut down. It is said that the coffer-dam gave away in the Sullivan mine once and flooded the whole mine--machinery and all. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Then I have heard the statement that the miners, in tunneling out under the river, came too near the bottom of the river and that it caved in. Again no one was hurt. This story might have been possible at some other mine, but I have no report of any drifts out under the river for the Sullivan mine.



X-Section of the Sullivan Mine

From USGS Bull. 432

Bartholomew - Map of Maine

These last two reports are unconfirmed at present and are merely statements that have been made to me by people now living in Sullivan. More investigation will probably disclose the true facts. The "Ellsworth American" files would, I believe, be the most likely place to find exact information on the point.

Bartlett has this to say about the Sullivan mine in 1879:
"The Sullivan Company have one shaft one hundred and ninety feet in depth, following the dip of the ore vein, in which can be seen the ore vein, gradually widening from ten inches at the top to nine feet at the bottom of the shaft. Both the walls, foot and hanging, are clearly defined, and are separated from the slate by a distinct seam of clay nearly two inches in thickness. The vein matter is made up of alternate layers of different grades and varieties of ores, some of the streaks being exceedingly rich in silver compounds. The predominating ore is a black sulphuret of silver. Splendid specimens of native silver may be obtained; also argentite, stromeyerite, pyrrargyrite, stephanite, and cerargyrite. In fact, almost every ore of silver is represented in this mine. The proportion of lead in the ore is very small. There is considerable iron, some arsenic, and a little zinc. Of course, samples can be selected that will run exceedingly high in silver. It is not an unusual thing to get assays running from two to eighteen thousand dollars in silver. A fair average of the first class ore from this mine will be about one hundred ounces."¹

¹ F. L. Bartlett - Mines of Maine.

Waukeag Silver Mining Company
Incorporated May, 1879

Capital \$500,000 Shares \$10 each

President: George B. Clapp, Boston, Mass.

Secretary: W. O. Arnold, Bangor, Maine.

Length of vein, 990 feet. Full steam machinery in

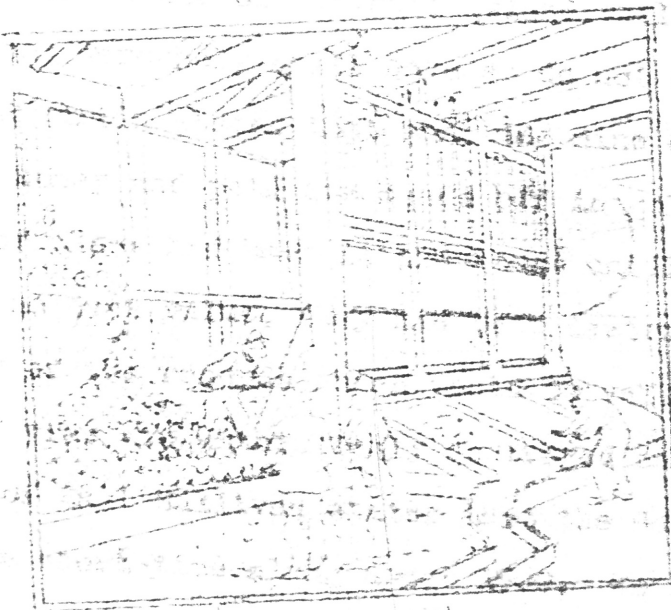
operation. One shaft.¹

This mine was located just north of the Sullivan mine. It was on the same vein as the Sullivan mine, as indicated before. The Waukeag shaft is reported to have reached a depth of 410 feet. The house in which Arthur Bunker now lives was built directly over the mouth of the shaft.

Emmons says that a second shaft on this property was sunk to a depth of sixty feet.¹

¹ Emmons - U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

The Waukeag, which operated a 14 stamp mill and smelting furnace, is reported to have produced twenty-five tons of silver-lead bullion.



A Stamp Mill

The Sullivan-Waukeag Mining Company summer visitor at

I find in the Laws of Maine for 1881 "An act to incorporate the Sullivan-Waukeag Mining Company. Capital Stock, \$1,000,000."

This was a merger of the Sullivan Silver Mining Company, and the Waukeag Silver Mining Company.

Capital \$400,000. Shares \$10 each

President: E. H. Hall, Ellsworth, Maine

Secretary: E. E. Hopkins, Ellsworth, Maine

The Whitten Silver Mine

I can find no data on this mine--not even on its location--

from any sources I have yet investigated.

The Morancy Mine, Sullivan, Maine

I have heard of this mine only from people living in Sullivan now. It was located in the Morancy district from which it took its name.

The Golden Circle, Seward's Island, Sorrento

This was one of the few gold mines in the district. Messrs. Fletcher and Howard Martin of East Sullivan state that their father and mother ran a boarding house on Seward's Island while the mine was in operation. They were only small boys so do not remember many details. Howard Martin stated that when the mine closed, it was hard-pressed for money and paid its hands off in gold stock certificates. Some of these had been in the house until just recently when, since they had no cash value, they had been destroyed. It is in this way that many of the records which would be valuable from a historical point of view are unthinkingly destroyed each year.

Mr. Edwin Doyle of East Sullivan states that the Golden Circle was worked again for a short time along about 1900. He went down in the mine during this revival.

Seward's Island now belongs to Mr. Glover, a summer visitor at Sorrento.

Robert Glover, Ellsworth, Maine
Incorporated July, 1879
Capital \$400,000. Shares \$10 each
President: E. Hancock District
Secretary: George A. Ellsworth, Maine

Grant Silver Mining Company
Incorporated Aug., 1879
Capital \$400,000. Shares \$10 each.
President: H. M. Hall, Ellsworth, Maine
Secretary: E. R. Hopkins, Ellsworth, Maine
Length of vein, 500 feet. Steam machinery proposed.
One shaft.¹

¹ Bartlett, Mines of Maine.

The Bangor Whig and Courier of June 14, 1879 states: "A party of gentlemen in Ellsworth have purchased the mineral rights to the land of Captain William Grant of Hancock and have commenced opening a mine. The work was begun Monday under the supervision of Mr. Barney Mullan."

This mine was on the shore road in Hancock about half way between Jellison's Cove and the old Maine Central Steamboat wharf at Mount Desert Ferry. The shaft was sunk about fifty feet from the shore. Nothing remains today except a few old boards and a water-filled hole.

Hancock Silver Mining Company
Incorporated May, 1879
Capital \$400,000. Shares \$10 each
President: J. G. Webster, Boston, Mass.
Sec. & Supt.: F. W. Doughty, Sullivan, Maine

Two shafts. Are to put in steam machinery immediately.¹

This mine was located somewhere above the Carrying Place, so-called, and on the mainland in Hancock. It is said that this mine and the Robert Emmett mine were on the range of the Sullivan lode though not actually a part of the Sullivan lode.

Robert Emmett Silver Mining Company
Incorporated July, 1879

Capital \$400,000. Shares \$10 each
President: H. Whiting, Ellsworth, Maine
Secretary: George A. Parcher, Ellsworth, Maine

Harvey Elliott
One shaft. Steam machinery proposed.

This mine also was on the Taunton river and Hog Bay side of Hancock. Its exact location is unknown to me now, but it was in the part of Hancock called Egypt.

Heagan or Hagan Mine

This mine was also in Egypt.

McFarland Mine

This mine was situated on the western shore of Crabtree's Neck, so-called then. The Hancock Water, Light and Power Company, Harry Johnson, proprietor, now uses this mine as a well from which to pump water for the summer colony at Hancock Point. The shaft is about 80 feet deep according to current reports.

Early Dawn Mine

This mine was somewhere in the vicinity of Mount Desert Ferry.

Ford Mine

This mine was located on the Hodgkins side of Skillings River. At that time it was in Hancock, but Marlboro now belongs to Lamaine.

The Cline Mine

This was located near the carrying place in Hancock in the district called Egypt. Hattie Martin and Alfred B. Crabtree in their book Hancock 1828-1928, state that this mine produced both silver and copper.

THE CUSTER MINE

This was a silver mine located in the Egypt section.

and silver deposits will become important sources of these metals. Possibly some of them could be Harvey Elliott

This was a prospect about 300 yards east of the Copperopolis mine house. It was sunk in Ellsworth schist as was the Copperopolis. It is now under water.

Copperopolis Mine

This was an ambitious proposition. A large hotel or boarding house, the "Copperopolis", was built to accommodate the workmen and visitors at Egypt where this mine was located. As the name suggests, copper was the mineral sought after. Emmons reports: "The Copperopolis mine is near Egypt, four miles west of Franklin station. Two hundred yards west of the mine house three pits are sunk in the contorted Ellsworth schist, which carries seams of quartz and pyrite with stains of copper carbonate."¹

¹ Emmons - U.S.G.B. Bulletin 432.

This Ellsworth schist is the same formation upon which the famous Douglas mine of Bluehill and others in that section were located.

FUTURE OF THE MINES

Emmons says, "It does not appear likely that any of the gold and silver deposits will become important sources of these metals.

Possibly some of them could be worked in a small way by hand-sorting and by the more simple methods of mechanical concentration, but the ore is in the main of low grade. It is nowhere greatly oxidized and could easily be concentrated mechanically, but no one body yet developed is of sufficient size to warrant the erection of a plant large enough to work with real economy."¹

¹ Emmons, U.S.G.S. Bulletin 432.

We must remember that Emmons was writing in 1910, and that since that time the development of the gasoline and Diesel engines would greatly facilitate crushing, etc. President Roosevelt's price of silver is also a big incentive for someone to try to open one of these mines again. Only two weeks ago, April, 1935, a man was down through the Sullivan district looking over the sites of some of the old mines. Whether this was just curiosity or more, I do not know. I am told, however, that on an average of three or four men look these over each year, but that nothing ever comes of it.

Emmons goes on to say that geologic investigation proves to his satisfaction that these deposits are not and will not be especially rich. He bases his conclusions on the fact that chloritic alteration have taken place along the walls of the veins and upon other evidence which I shall not quote here.

As for the copper deposits, he says that these are rich in sulphur and that doubtless this could be sold advantageously to acid works. He goes on to say that if the paper mills of New England should

ever adopt the practice followed by some European plants, they could make sulphur dioxide much more cheaply from pyrites than from native sulphur.

The U.S.G.S. Mineral Resources Report for 1882 has this to say about copper: "The deposits of Maine attracted little attention until in 1879 and 1880 the general revival of interest in mining led to the investment of capital in Maine Copper Mines. On the whole, the results obtained were disappointing; and though a goodly share of failures was due to mismanagement, the resources of the State in this respect, however interesting they may be locally, do not appear to be on a scale likely to materially affect the general copper trade of the country."

And thus we come to the conclusion of this paper. Perhaps the day will come when Sullivan will once more be the booming mining town that it was at the beginning of the eighties, but we doubt it. Let us end on a cheerful note, however, by quoting once more from the Bangor Daily Whig and Courier: "A correspondent of the Ellsworth American from Sullivan says that the old residents can hardly realize that this busy town with its many steam whistles, the boom of almost constant explosions, and the never-ending sound of hammer and drill can really be the old, quiet, peaceful town of Sullivan. The mining regions are alive with men--speculators, prospectors, capitalists, and practical miners."

Sullivan has once again reverted to its peaceful existence. Couch hammocks adorn its front porches. For the most part the men, even after resting over Sunday, according to a friend of mine who lives there, are too tired even to lift a hand in greeting as some one more ambitious passes by. God grant that she rest in peace.

APPENDIX I

TABLE OF ASSAYS¹

of the U.S., 1882

Location	Name of Mine	Kind of Ore	Depth	Silver in Ounces	Gold in P. W.	Lead %	Copper %
Hancock	Hancock	Sulph.	16 ft.	32.20	14.00		
"	"	Concen.	40 ft.	179.87	17.60		
Sullivan	Sullivan	Galena	Surface	32.62	Trace	33.00	
"	"	"	10 ft.	79.74	14.00		
"	"	"	12 ft.	85.05	Trace		
"	"	Sulph.	16 ft.	111.79	"		
"	"	"	20 ft.	121.21	5.40	10.00	
"	"	"	30 ft.	67.86	14.00	8.00	
"	"	Antim.	50 ft.	7370.35	18.00		
"	"	Sulph.	75 ft.	220.00	7.50		

*Above were all taken during 1878 and 1879.

¹ F. L. Bartlett, Mines of Maine.

APPENDIX II

From U.S.G.S. Mineral Resources of the U.S., 1882

Useful Mined Minerals of the State of Maine
Extracted in Sullivan-Hancock District (Extracted)

Mineral Name	Common Name	Where Mined	Copper
Argentite	Sulphide of Silver	Sullivan, Hancock, etc. Accompanies galena and ores of silver.	
Cerargyrite	Chloride of Silver	Sullivan mines	
Chalcopyrite	Copper Pyrites	Sullivan, Hancock, etc. Occurs in veins of granular quartz and gneiss.	
Galenite	Galena	Sullivan, Hancock, etc. Argentiferous galena with stephanite and argentite.	
Gold		Hancock with silver-lead ores	
Pyrrargyrite	Ruby Silver	Sullivan and Hancock With galena, native silver, silver sulphide, etc.	
Pyrite	Iron Pyrites	Hancock and Sullivan with silver ores	
Stephanite	Brittle Silver Ore	Sullivan Accompanying galena and ores of silver	

APPENDIX III

Production of Gold, Silver, and Copper in the State of Maine 1880-1882 Extracted from Mineral Resources of the U.S., 1882

Year	Gold		Silver		Copper	
	Ounces	Value	Ounces	Value	Pounds	Value
1880	145.1	\$2999	5569	\$7200	---	---
1881	---	---	---	\$5000	---	---
1882	---	---	---	---	290,000	\$60,000

These are the only reports I have been able to find on production of metals in Maine during this period. It seems improbable that this represents the total output of all the Maine mines.

In Maine, there is no gold or silver mining. The only mining is copper. The only copper mine is the East. All the news and interest is centered in the East. To all owners of the mine, the mine is the mine. The mine is the mine. The mine is the mine.

APPENDIX IV

Advertisements taken from issues of the
Banner Daily Whig & Courier during 1879 and 1880

and for the past three years assayer for the Justice Mine, Gold
 Hill, Nevada, has opened an office at the above named place and
 will personally **To Miners and Prospectors-** make every assay as
 soon as possible. Having fitted up a chemical laboratory in connection with our
 works and secured a first class chemist from the School of Mines
 of Stockholm, Sweden, we are prepared to make analyses and assays
 of ores of copper, gold, and silver at very low rates.

O. W. Davis, Jr., Treasurer
 Katadin Iron Company

Send for a specimen copy! Everyone should read it!

THE MINING RECORD
 Only \$3.00 a year

A thirty-two page, grand octave weekly paper giving mining
 news from the gold and silver mines of America, market value,
 dividends, assessments, etc.

A. R. Christolm, Proprietor
 64 Broadway, New York

THE DAILY MINING NEWS

An evening paper devoted to the gold and silver mining inter-
 ests of America. The Only Daily Mining Paper in the East. All
 the news and latest quotations. Indispensable to all owners of
 mines. Price 2c, \$6 per annum, postage paid.

Daily Mining News
 27 Chatham Street, New York

Constock Assay Office
Maine Mining Exchange-Bangor, Maine

Thomas Cahill, for 20 years assayer in the State of Nevada and for the past three years assayer for the Justice Mine, Cold Hill, Nevada, has opened an office at the above named place and will personally attend to all work and guarantee every assay as correct. Mr. Cahill has also had considerable experience in the milling and mining of ores.

Maine Mining Exchange

Stocks bought and sold at the Boston, New York, and San Francisco Exchanges, by

Isaiah S. Emery
Maine Mining Exchange

T. H. Mansfield and Company
dealers in
Maine and New Hampshire Mining Stocks

Office at Number 67 Exchange Street, Portland, Maine where they will buy and sell the above stocks. Auction sales of the same every Saturday at 10:00 A.M. The patronage of all interested is respectfully solicited. Communications promptly attended to.

City of Boston Copper Mine of Bluehill and
The Favorite Copper Mine of Bluehill.

Subscription book for the sale of club shares in both these mines now open at the Maine Mining Exchange, 37 West Market Street, Bangor, Maine, and Maine Mining Exchange, 28 Congress Street, Boston.

Rendrock Powder
and all
Mining Supplies
at
Henry McLaughlin's
Front Street

Deane Steam Pumps
Copeland and Bacon's Hoisting Machinery and Wire Rope
Air Compressors and Drills
for sale by
Henry McLaughlin
Front Street

Henry McLaughlin
agent for
Ingersoll Rock Drill Company
and
Tayler and Rand Powder Company
All kinds of supplies for mining and ledge work
in any quantities desired
Front Street, Bangor